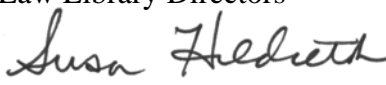




MEMORANDUM

Date: January 21, 2009

To: California Public Library Directors
California County Law Library Directors

From: Susan Hildreth 
State Librarian of California

RE: 2009/10 Public Library Staff Education Program

I am pleased to announce the *2009/10 Public Library Staff Education Program*. The program, which was developed by a team of public library directors and staff, assists you in your efforts to encourage existing staff members to pursue their MLIS degree. The new program guidelines and application for this competitive tuition reimbursement grant program are available on our website at <http://www.library.ca.gov/grants/lsta/apply.html>

After reviewing the information, please distribute this information to interested staff. Be advised that although we have not yet received federal Library Services and Technology Act funds for 2009/10 to support this program, the necessary efforts are underway.

This program has become highly competitive in recent years. We give priority to past grant recipients who are continuing in their studies toward their MLIS degree. Then any remaining funds allotted to this program are used for PLSEP awards to new applicants. Depending upon the number of past recipients continuing their studies in any given year, the number of new applicants awarded funding has ranged anywhere from 65% of new applicants in a given year, to as low as only 9% of new applicants in another year. Due to the high number of past recipients who we anticipate will be continuing their studies in the upcoming grant year, we do anticipate that 2009/10 will be a very competitive year for new applicants.

Thank you for your support of this program, and your assistance in recruiting the talented men and women who will be staffing and leading our libraries in the future. If you have any questions regarding this program or the application process, please contact Kathy Low by e-mail at klow@library.ca.gov or at (916) 653-6822.